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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 EB-03

INR-05 CIAE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 RSC-01 /042 W
---------- 078469
R 221833Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6427
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18268

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC
SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS

1. DURING CALL BY PREEG AND EMBOFF ON HISS OF
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE AND VON DER GABLENTZ, DIRECTOR
OF OFFICE OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION IN FOREIGN OFFICE,
ISSUE OF IMPROVING CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES BETWEEN
US AND EC-9 IN POLITICAL FRAMEWORK WAS DISCUSSED.
GERMAN VIEW IS THAT MOVE TO FORMAL CONSULTATIVE
MECHANISM AT THIS TIME WOULD BE RESISTED BY FRENCH
AND IS THEREFORE NOT FEASIBLE. THERE IS NEED
HOWEVER TO ENSURE QUICK AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS
WITH ALL NINE MEMBER STATES AND TO THIS END WE
MIGHT CONSIDER STRENGTHENING AND AUGMENTING PRESENT PATTERN
OF CONCENTRATING ON EUROPEAN COUNTRY IN PRESIDENCY
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PLUS BILATERAL LINES OF CONTACT.

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2. WE ASKED WHAT THE LIKELY EUROPEAN REACTION
WOULD BE TO (A) BRIEFING EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES
OF ALL NINE MEMBERS JOINTLY IN WASHINGTON TO
ENSURE QUICK AND ACCURATE TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION
AND (B) ARRANGING AN OCCASIONAL INFORMAL SESSION
OVER A MEAL BETWEEN EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND
SENIOR US OFFICIALS. IN RESPONSE TO (A), GABLENTZ
SAW NO MAJOR PROBLEM AND FELT SUCH PROCEDURE COULD
ASSIST IN COMMUNICATION PROCESS. THERE COULD BE
SLIGHT DRAWBACK IN THAT JOINT BRIEFING COULD BE
CONSTRUED AS DOWNGRADING OF EC PRESIDENCY, BUT
THIS WAS SECONDARY CONSIDERATION. AS FOR (B),
THERE WAS PRECEDENT IN RECENT NEW YORK DINNER
BETWEEN EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND JOHN HALSTEAD,
ASST UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF CANADA TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENED EC-CANADIAN
RELATIONSHIP. IF SUCH A MEETING WITH US WERE TO
TAKE PLACE DURING COURSE OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED
EC-9 MEETING WHILE US OFFICIALS HAPPENED TO BE IN
EUROPE, IT COULD BE QUITE USEFUL AND NOT CAUSE MAJOR
PROBLEM WITH FRANCE. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY
PERTINENT IF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WERE OF CLEAR
MUTUAL CONCERN. GABLENTZ WARNED, HOWEVER, AGAINST
TRYING TO INSTITUTIONALIZE SUCH MEETINGS FOR
HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE PREMATURE.

3. IN RELATED MATTER OF ESTABLISHMENT OF EC-9
POLITICAL SECRETARIAT AT UPCOMING SUMMIT, GABLENTZ
NOTED THAT WHILE THIS PROPOSAL IS STILL IN WORKING
DOCUMENTS, IT IS IN BRACKETED LANGUAGE AND WILL
ALMOST CERTAINLY BE DROPPED. GERMAN REASONS FOR
RESISTING THIS PROPOSAL ARE THAT IT WOULD ESTABLISH
A NEW INSTITUTION SEPARATE FROM THE COMMUNITY, IT
WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL SERVANTS THAT ARE VERY COSTLY, ANDIT
WOULD DETRACT FROM THE CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS
RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS EVOLVED AMONG THE NINE
POLITICAL DIRECTORS DEALING DIRECTLY WITH ONE
ANOTHER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN18268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740339-0798
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741121/aaaaarrz.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-EC CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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